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South-South cooperation for development

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Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to decisions 13/1 and 13/2 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. It covers: (a) the status of the implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation and the common results framework that has been incorporated into the Guidelines; (b) the status, management and use of resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation; and (c) the organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme. Based on the analysis contained in the report, a number of specific recommendations are made to advance the objectives of South-South cooperation.

[1] The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, decided to change the name of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

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I. Introduction

1. In its decisions 13/1 and 13/2 of 30 May 2003, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation stressed that South-South cooperation (SSC), as an important element of international cooperation for development, offered viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of economic growth and development. It noted that a growing number of developing countries were initiating SSC activities designed to benefit a large number of developing countries. It also encouraged developing countries that had not already done so to put in place a national SSC policy and coordination mechanism as part of their development programmes and strategies. These would include a clear delineation of the role of the national focal point for SSC and the various partners for such cooperation. To further these goals, the High-level Committee requested the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to take further concrete measures to integrate the use of SSC into their regular cooperation programmes.

2. Within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the High-level Committee requested the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which is designated as the overall focal point for SSC in the United Nations development system, to undertake a number of measures to further mainstream SSC into the development process. It requested the Special Unit to promote the use of information and communication technology, with a special emphasis on assisting least developed countries and African countries, to facilitate their connectivity and use of this technology.

3. The High-level Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Special Unit to promote South-South knowledge-sharing through its compilation and dissemination of successful practices and innovative experiences in developing countries and commended the efforts of the Special Unit in establishing the Internet-based system for SSC, the Web of Information for Development, or WIDE. It requested the relevant institutions of the United Nations development system to make information in their existing databases on SSC activities more accessible through WIDE. The High-level Committee further requested the Special Unit to assist in documenting and disseminating information on the special problems and needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, with a view to helping to provide a platform for the international development community to help to address the special concerns of these countries. It also encouraged all actors in the development process, with the assistance of the Special Unit, to draw lessons from experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative SSC programmes.

4. The High-level Committee approved the revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation (formerly Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries), including the annex on the United Nations Common Results Framework on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, and urged the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to follow them in the design, formulation, implementation, evaluation and reporting on their programmes. It also decided to change the name of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation with no change in its mandate or the scope of its activities.

5. Recognizing the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing SSC, including triangular cooperation, the High-level Committee welcomed the financial contributions made by some developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation managed by the Special Unit and invited all countries with the capacity to do so to make contributions to the Trust Fund as well as to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. Furthermore, it urged the Special Unit to develop a clear system for the management and use of the resources of the Trust Fund. Finally, the High-level Committee reiterated the need to increase the UNDP core resources, which would also increase the volume of resources available for promoting SSC activities.

6. Consistent with the above-mentioned decisions, the present report reviews: (a) the implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation, including common indicators; (b) the status, management and use of resources for the promotion of SSC as well as the development of a forward-looking strategy for resource mobilization; and (c) the UNDP organizational, administrative and financial arrangements in support of SSC.

II. Implementation of the United Nations system Guidelines and common indicators for the promotion of South-South cooperation

7. The current Guidelines have been progressively reviewed and revised since their initial formulation in 1993 to reflect, among other things, new global realities and the basic reorientation of SSC as expressed in the strategy document on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3) and other decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the UNDP Executive Board. In their present form, the Guidelines are designed to foster innovative approaches and methods that will build on existing modalities of SSC. By providing a framework to promote and catalyse South-South interactions, the Guidelines are instrumental in ensuring that the United Nations development system "thinks South-South" and is permeated not only by the concept but also by its practical application. The incorporation of the common indicators into the Guidelines has provided a useful tool that will assist United Nations organizations and agencies to systemize and harmonize reports on activities in the area of SSC that are prepared for submission to the High-level Committee.

8. With the gradual adoption over the past 27 years of a more systematic approach, and more recently within the framework of the Guidelines, the United Nations development system is now well-positioned to ensure that SSC is central to the operational activities of the programmes of its organizations and agencies. While giving first consideration to the use of SSC may not yet be universal, in practice, the United Nations system has increased its use of Southern expertise for practical reasons. It is usually more cost-effective and it is often the most logical option, as in the case of efforts to deal with communicable diseases, inter-country environmental problems and subregional social issues. The challenge for the United Nations system now is to make the use of SSC a more explicit policy tool that will build on the initiatives already undertaken. The brief account provided in the following

paragraphs aims to illustrate the actions taken by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to comply with the Guidelines on SSC.

9. Most United Nations agencies have mandated policies for the promotion and use of SSC in their respective development programmes. They have also put in place relevant institutional arrangements, including the designation of SSC focal points, to advance the use of SSC. Most organizations have promoted initiatives that are designed to integrate the South-South concept into the activities carried out in their respective fields of competence. They contribute to human resource development and institution-building by supporting the use of Southern experts and transfers of technology. In addition, networking among institutions and information systems is being carried out on a regional basis. Moreover, the technical agencies of the United Nations development system are encouraging the exchange of technical information and directories of national institutions as well as helping to support seminars, workshops and study tours aimed at strengthening SSC.

10. In keeping with the worldwide trend towards greater regional integration and the need for greater regional solidarity in the developing world, United Nations regional commissions have come to play an increasingly important role in providing an overall framework for SSC at the regional level. They have given priority to SSC in virtually all of their technical assistance programmes. Promotion of SSC by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) included technology programmes to improve industrial development, the promotion of small-scale enterprises and sponsorship of joint workshops. ECA collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on such initiatives as fostering interregional private-sector linkages, sharing experiences in regional monetary and trade agreements and furthering linkages of South-South trade information. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean promoted more market-oriented regional integration in order to realize greater stability, reduce deficits, encourage export growth and diversification and increase foreign investment. SSC activities of ESCAP included workshops and seminars to sensitize South-South national focal points. ESCAP also entered into a third-country training programme with pivotal developing countries to enhance SSC through bilateral arrangements.

11. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to nurture the rapid growth of South-South trade and commerce. UNCTAD provided technical support for the Marrakech meeting of the Group of 77 and China on SSC and SSC was one of the main topics at the ninth session of UNCTAD in June 2004. WTO has given prominence to the potential for further reduction of tariff barriers to foster an expansion in South-South trade. The International Trade Centre also continued to promote South-South trade, bringing buyers and sellers together to increase local production in such strategic trade areas as the pharmaceutical market.

12. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization initiated a major interregional South-South project with India to facilitate the transfer of technologies and expertise in low-cost housing to African, Asian and Latin American countries. The project will build institutional and enterprise-level capacities to promote the construction of inexpensive, environmentally friendly housing. The World Bank focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A conference that it convened in Shanghai, China, in May 2004 analysed case studies involving

successful South-South approaches to development issues. In addition to the dissemination of lessons learned, the conference resulted in the establishment of a network of information consultation and coordination.

13. The use of Southern experts, intercountry consultations, training and study tours, workshops, support to regional organizations, promotion of Southern technical cooperation networks and the dissemination of information on innovative and best practices are major elements in the South-South strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Codex Alimentarius was established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) to set safety standards in the food trade. Adherence to Codex standards helps to ensure the safety of food exports, which can lead to greater access to export markets, especially those in developed countries. The FAO Special Programme for Food Security has sent over 2,600 experts and technicians from 20 advanced developing countries to work directly with farmers in developing countries on all aspects of food security. South-South cooperation is built into the main programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is backed up by a variety of regional and subregional networks supported by UNESCO regional offices. The networks engage in information exchange and capacity-building.

14. UNDP has been closely monitoring its support of SSC, identifying areas where increased assistance is required. It has established an electronic monitoring system that tracks the use of South-South solutions in all the UNDP practice areas: reducing human poverty; democratic governance; energy and environment; crisis prevention and recovery; and combating HIV/AIDS. Using service lines as activities that pinpoint results in these practice areas, UNDP has been able to obtain an overview of the extent to which South-South solutions are used in its programmes from the subregional to the interregional level. A total of 139 programme countries reported on the use of best practices, Southern institutions, expert advisory services and the procurement of goods and services from developing countries.

15. The overall conclusion of the survey is that a high level of emphasis on South-South approaches to development was observed in 40 per cent of the total number of UNDP country programmes. These approaches consist of the use of Southern experts, Southern institutions and the procurement of goods and services from the countries of the South as well as the provision of support to programmes that are subregional, regional or even interregional. The rate of 40 per cent means that UNDP has not fully mainstreamed SSC into its activities, but significant, measurable progress has been achieved. It is noteworthy that this rate of compliance was achieved without the setting of any formal targets. From 2005 onward, it is expected that the percentage of SSC in UNDP programmes will increase significantly now that SSC has been designated as one of the organization's six development drivers.

16. The survey shows that use of SSC varies considerably according to region and practice area. In Africa, use of SSC was highest in HIV/AIDS programmes and initiatives to foster democratic governance, while the lowest level of use was found in activities focused on poverty reduction and crisis prevention and recovery. This contrasts with other regions, such as Asia and the Pacific, where programmes on crisis prevention and energy and the environment ranked highest in seeking SSC solutions, whereas private-sector development and empowerment of civil society showed the lowest emphasis on this form of cooperation. Country offices in Latin

America and the Caribbean indicated that crisis prevention and recovery together with democratic governance were the areas where SSC was used the most, while it was least used in the HIV/AIDS prevention and energy and the environment practice areas. The Arab States country offices identified energy and the environment and crisis prevention and recovery as areas with a high emphasis on SSC, while democratic governance and poverty reduction were the practice areas with the lowest rates of use.

17. In the landlocked and least developed countries, HIV/AIDS and democratic governance were the areas where SSC was used most often, while energy and the environment and crisis prevention were areas with low levels of emphasis on SSC. In small island developing States, crisis prevention and HIV/AIDS were the areas with the highest emphasis on SSC, with energy and the environment and poverty reduction the areas where it was being used the least.

18. In responding to this survey, a good number of country offices indicated a comprehensive understanding of how SSC can be utilized, while other country offices appeared to be less well-informed. To further assist UNDP country offices in their efforts to mainstream SSC, the Special Unit plans to undertake an intensive training and sensitization programme for staff at Headquarters and in country offices on how to incorporate SSC into the programmes for which they are responsible.

19. Overall, there has been an increase in the use of SSC by the United Nations development system, with a focus on institution-building and networking, information support, resource mobilization and the improvement of management capacities. To facilitate greater use of SSC, FAO, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and WHO have decentralized the use of South-South-related funds to their field offices. The report containing the review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (SSC/14/1) gives a more elaborate account of the support provided by the institutions of the United Nations system to promote SSC.

20. Despite progress in expanding the use of SSC, mainstreaming of the modality is still not optimal. Lack of effective institutions and mechanisms to manage and coordinate SSC, together with inadequate knowledge and financial resources, are the most frequently cited reasons for lack of progress. Innovative measures are being put in place by the Special Unit and other focal points in the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system that will ensure that more progress is made in the future.

III. Status, management and use of the resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation and related resource-mobilization initiatives

21. Since the 1990s, SSC has been strengthened by an increasing number of middle-income countries in developing regions. These countries, recognized as pivotal countries of SSC, have become important providers of technical cooperation. They include Egypt, South Africa and Tunisia in Africa; China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand in Asia; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Latin

America; and Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Turkey in the Mediterranean region and Europe. At the same time, partnerships with developed countries, donor agencies and other aid institutions have emerged in the form of triangular cooperation.

22. Working in tandem with these pivotal countries and triangular donors, the Special Unit has introduced a number of innovative approaches that are being implemented within the framework of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, together with complementary sources of non-core and parallel financing.

23. The Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation was established in 1996 in recognition of the need to mobilize additional resources to fund SSC as they began to be mainstreamed increasingly into global development strategies. From its inception, resources have been made available to the Fund by both developed and developing countries and non-governmental institutions, reaching a total of $3.914 million through 2004. The donors were: China, $3.15 million; Ireland, $64,000; the Republic of Korea, $600,000; and the Ford Foundation, $100,000.

24. These resources have been complemented by cost-sharing contributions from the Government of Japan totalling $31.5 million (since 1996) that have been channelled to UNDP under the Japan Human Resources Development Fund. In addition, parallel funding has been received from the Canadian International Development Agency ($320,000), the Government of Cameroon ($170,000), the International Development Research Centre ($400,000), the International Telecommunication Union ($1.2 million), the Japan International Cooperation Agency ($1.11 million) and the Rockefeller Foundation ($157,000).

25. Total funding generated from 1996 to 2005 from all of these sources amounted to $38,771,000. In March 2005, contributions for tsunami recovery were made to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation by the Governments of Algeria and of China as well as private enterprise in Brazil and Suriname.

26. Together, these resources have supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through work in the focus areas enumerated in the Second Cooperation Framework for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. These include: support for policy dialogue and consensus-building; sharing of development information; increased South-South economic cooperation; and support for South-South science and technology for poverty eradication. The Special Unit undertook a number of strategic initiatives, many of which focused on least developed countries, especially in Africa. The Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in October 2003, explored issues faced by Africa in the global economy, drawing on lessons from the Asian development experience that African policymakers could adapt to their own contexts.

27. Another significant effort is the project for Africa-Asia joint research, which involved the development by an international research network of a new variety of rice called New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which is suited to African growing conditions. Combining the best traits of African and Asian rice species, this variety was developed by a team of experts from 17 West African countries, China, Colombia, France, Japan, the Philippines and the United States of America. The Special Unit was the catalyst in the creation of the NERICA Consortium for Food

Security in sub-Saharan Africa to implement the Africa Rice Initiative. The initiative aims to scale up the dissemination of NERICA varieties throughout Africa with support of over $35 million, including the contributions of the African Development Bank and the Government of Japan. It has been recognized by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as one of the most promising initiatives for the improvement of food security in Africa. The dissemination of NERICA varieties is expected to increase the rice production of Africa significantly, thereby replacing costly imports.

28. Expanding on the already growing links between developing regions of the South, the Special Unit is helping to strengthen capacities in African countries with help from pivotal countries in Asia, focusing on building local-level institutions for poverty alleviation. With support from Japan, activities are under way on a programme for Africa-Asia cooperation in local governance. The objective is to facilitate the growth of two local governance networks in Africa and Asia that will help the Member countries to collaborate and draw on one another's experiences in building governance environments conducive to socio-economic development.

29. New business partnerships are being fostered by the Special Unit as it organizes forums for African and Asian businesses to catalyse investment and technology transfer at the enterprise level. The Africa-Asia Business Forum aims to stimulate trade and investment between countries in both regions, bringing together business representatives to discuss possible joint ventures, bilateral agreements, enterprise exchanges and a variety of business instruments. Existing arrangements to establish business linkages between African and Asian entrepreneurs are being transformed into an electronic platform that empowers companies participating in the Africa-Asia Business Forum to identify partners in either region via the Internet.

30. The Africa-Asia small and medium-scale enterprise network supports the transfer and sharing of best practices in the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises policy and institutional reforms as well as capacity development to promote trade and investment. This is being done through TECHNONET AFRICA, which will be supported by the parallel Asian network. Based on the findings of the needs assessment study undertaken by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the programme aims at facilitating strategically important cluster small and medium-scale enterprises in seven TECHNONET AFRICA member countries to develop necessary policy and institutional measures to support and reform small and medium-scale enterprises, create opportunities for small and medium-scale enterprise foreign investment and strengthen the partnership between TECHNONET AFRICA and TECHNONET ASIA. The programme will include: development of 100 competitive cluster small and medium-scale enterprises; capacity development to support lending schemes; development of marketing skills and systems; policy and institutional reform; development of cluster small and medium-scale enterprise parks; technology matchmaking; and trade and investment promotion. The total investment envisaged for the overall programme is estimated at more than $200 million.

31. An environmental management initiative of the Special Unit has brought together a number of Asian and African countries in efforts to protect endangered coastal and marine resources in the Gulf of Guinea. Under the Africa-Asia Eco-partnership programme, activities are being undertaken in solid waste management and wastewater management in five African cities and six Asian cities, building on

public-private partnerships and community participation. The Rural Development Project for improving livelihoods in rural areas, which is assisting displaced people and local villagers living in two Cambodian provinces with a population of 1.4 million, is an example of triangular cooperation, in this case among Cambodia, four countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and Japan.

32. Given the solid track record of these activities, funded not from regular resources but rather through the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and cost-sharing, the prospects for increasing financial resources for an expansion of these programmes appear to be good, especially if an innovative strategy for resource mobilization is pursued. Such a strategy is already being adopted with the establishment of a funding facility for tsunami recovery within the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. This effort targets contributions from developing-country Governments, private companies and public donations towards post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction.

33. Another important factor with respect to funding is the steadily expanding role of pivotal-country programmes for SSC. In recent years, the magnitude of these assistance programmes has increased significantly; such programmes have therefore become more important as both an ongoing and a potential source of funding and resources for SSC. For example, India, Brazil and South Africa have initiated a joint partnership with UNDP (known as the IBSA initiative) to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. These concerted efforts on the part of major developing countries represent a significant breakthrough in SSC. The Special Unit and its outposted staff are especially well-placed to build on this new momentum by developing closer links with South-South national focal points in pivotal countries in order to better target programmes of assistance, design projects and activities more effectively and encourage an overall increase in financial and human resources available for knowledge transfers to non-pivotal developing countries, especially least developed countries.

34. The Special Unit aims to mobilize additional resources ($5.15 million) in cash and in kind contributions over the period 2005/07 to supplement the regular resources and other funds already committed by various partners, as indicated in the table below. A three-pronged strategy will be adopted to achieve this objective:

(a) *Strategic programme formulation.* A number of strategic programmes with the potential to attract support from various partners will be formulated as mechanisms to facilitate the transfer of South-South capacities and know-how through science and technology exchanges in areas such as small and medium-scale enterprise development, community-based disaster management and recovery, HIV/AIDS prevention, food security and other areas relating to the Millennium Development Goals. In all these initiatives, efforts will be made to ensure a gender perspective. Furthermore, the Special Unit will place greater emphasis on reaching out to traditional donors, pivotal countries, foundations and the private sector. Initial efforts have already produced promising results. For example, South Africa has made a commitment to contribute $300,000 towards the development of small and medium-scale enterprises.

(b) *Matching needs and offers of development assistance.* In this effort, the Special Unit is establishing networking arrangements with a wide range of civil society organizations to provide South-South responses to the recent tsunami and

other natural disasters in the developing world. By making the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation available to Southern countries wishing to fund reconstruction efforts in countries hit by the recent tsunami, the Special Unit has mobilized over $3 million. With these and expected additional resources, the Special Unit aims to fund initiatives that will generate shareable knowledge on community-based responses to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions;

(c) *Public-private partnering.* A number of programmes that the Special Unit is formulating will be designed with a view to enhancing South-South public-private partnerships to boost South-South trade and technology transfer, with funding from Southern multinational companies and chambers of commerce. As the Special Unit proceeds to expand TECHNONET ASIA to include members in the regions of Africa, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, it is anticipated that private-sector partners benefiting from such a wide network will be willing to support the initiative. In regard to SSC in science and technology, the approach of the Special Unit to mobilizing additional resources is based on the formation of partnerships in order to harness its partners' intellectual and financial resources. It is envisaged that collaboration with such entities as ECA, the Princeton-based Millennium Science Initiative that has branches in Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria and Uganda, and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World will result in concrete programmes to help to implement various declarations and activities by developing countries in regard to SSC in science and technology.

Table

Resources: actual and to be mobilized

(Millions of United States dollars)

Sources	*Resources required*			
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
UNDP regular resources				
Estimated carryover into 2005	2.50			2.50
Track line 1.5	4.40	4.75	4.70	13.85
Subtotal	**6.90**	**4.75**	**4.70**	**16.35**
Other resources (Voluntary Trust Fund)				
China	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries		1.00	1.00	2.00*
India, Brazil, South Africa		.45	.40	.85*
Subtotal	**1.00**	**2.45**	**2.40**	**5.85**
Third-party cost-sharing				
Japan	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00

Sources	Resources required			
	2005	2006	2007	Total
Other donors	.30	1.00	1.00	2.30*
Private sector	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	**1.30**	**2.00**	**2.00**	**5.30**
Grand total	**9.20**	**9.20**	**9.10**	**27.50**

* To be mobilized.

IV. Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation

35. The Third Cooperation Framework (2005-2007) constitutes the core strategy for the Special Unit to perform effectively its General Assembly-mandated functions as the United Nations development system coordinator for SSC. It has been formulated with the benefit of experience derived from the implementation of the two earlier frameworks. The lessons learned that were pinpointed in evaluations are strongly reflected in the current framework, which guides the Special Unit. The main elements of this past experience that have been reflected in the strategy of the Special Unit include the following:

(a) Use advocacy as a tool for the effective promotion of SSC through campaigns, meetings, workshops and seminars to mainstream SSC and to leverage resources of the United Nations system;

(b) Support initiatives that demonstrate the relevance of SSC by undertaking practical, innovative activities that have a visible development impact and that can serve as models for replication, drawing on its experience with, for example, the development of NERICA;

(c) Build on the momentum that has been gathering among developing countries as they form regional alliances through, inter alia, the formulation of programmes that are in line with regional and subregional development frameworks, such as NEPAD;

(d) Increase linkages with civil society and the private sector by establishing partnerships with these entities in order to harness their resources and expertise in the formulation and implementation of programmes that respond to development needs expressed during various South-South forums;

(e) Give priority to triangular cooperation, involving the participation of developed countries, in order to assist nations in difficult development circumstances by pooling the financial resources, technology, institutional capacities and expertise of the more advanced or pivotal countries with those of traditional donors;

(f) Strengthen linkages between South-South programmes supported by UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations development system by working more closely with these entities in all of the activities of the Special Unit;

(g) Capitalize on the momentum generated by international conferences on SSC through concerted, specific follow-up actions that address the common concerns of developing countries expressed in these forums;

(h) Accelerate the development of an Internet-enabled platform through which development partners can develop rosters of Southern expertise, share Southern best practices and innovative experiences, and strengthen links between Southern institutions.

36. The foundation of the implementation strategy of the Special Unit, as expressed in the Third Cooperation Framework, is based on three policy and operational support platforms.

Platform one: policy development, research, dialogue and mainstreaming

37. The Special Unit will engage with developing countries in order to align the South-South agenda with the Millennium Development Goals. This will consist of efforts to create consortiums, associations and other collaborative linkages among institutions, centres of excellence and experts in the South in order to act upon relevant South-South action plans. The Special Unit will assist countries in the South in establishing mechanisms for more effective implementation of policies, agreements and action plans. In the establishment of implementation mechanisms, particular attention will be paid to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

38. Continuing to build on prior experience, the Special Unit will support more comprehensive research and analysis of South-South issues through the publication of the development journal, *Cooperation South*, as well as the forthcoming *South Report*. This will be done in partnership with Southern centres of excellence, universities and research centres.

39. Advisory services and other inputs will be provided by the Special Unit to enhance the mainstreaming of SSC into the work of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations development system. This will consist of the preparation of guidelines on how to include SSC in programming documents of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Educational and training materials will be developed, targeting such various audiences as junior Professional officers of the United Nations system and national focal points for South-South cooperation. Promotional materials, including videos, brochures and booklets, will be distributed at workshops, meetings and conferences. These efforts will help to make SSC a driver of development effectiveness in the UNDP practice areas, as expressed by the Executive Board during its second annual session in September 2004.

40. The Special Unit will also collaborate with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) in order to foster triangular cooperation by strengthening working relations between the States members of OECD/DAC and developing countries that provide development assistance to other countries in the South.

Platform two: creation of an enabling environment and mechanisms for expanded South-South business cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction

41. To promote joint venture arrangements and other forms of intra-South entrepreneurship development, the Special Unit will provide support for dialogue between the public and private sectors on such topics as market reform, privatization and development of small and medium-scale enterprises. This will be accomplished by, among other things, organizing conferences or funding the preparation of analytical papers by technical experts.

42. The Special Unit will also work with public-sector authorities and business leaders to create the enabling policy and market environment for increased intra-South trade and investment flows, especially to Africa. This will involve facilitating the formation of joint venture arrangements and technology exchanges. With regard to the latter, the Special Unit will facilitate the creation of linkages between technology exchange centres in middle-income countries and similar entities in poorer countries in the South.

43. The Special Unit will continue to provide administrative support to the Africa-Asia Business Forum, with the financial backing of the Government of Japan and other partners. It will aim to transform the Forum from an event-driven initiative into a self-sustaining, economically viable process of generating business and investment in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries in Africa and other regions.

44. On the basis of experience drawn from TECHNONET ASIA, the Special Unit will promote the development of small and medium-scale enterprises in other regions of the South through institutional capacity-building and online networking among such enterprises in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Platform three: fostering the sharing of Southern development knowledge and solutions

45. In order to scale up the sharing of development-related knowledge and solutions among developing countries, the Special Unit will provide a number of services aimed at fostering collaborative networking among Southern institutions, centres of excellence, civil society organizations and individual experts in the public and private sectors. Initial networking activities that have been launched by the Special Unit between TECHNONET ASIA and TECHNONET AFRICA, with the involvement of small and medium-scale enterprises in the two regions, will be expanded through Internet-based interactions between such enterprises in the regions of the Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

46. A number of UNDP bureaux and offices have already used the WIDE roster platform, including the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the Evaluation Office, the Regional Bureau for Africa, regional centres, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Group Office. This platform enables users to compile and share information on experts in the South who are qualified and available to provide expert services in various

development-related initiatives. In this regard, the Special Unit will expand its partnerships with other UNDP bureaux and offices and United Nations organizations. It will also use WIDE to share its publications, including *Cooperation South*, *Sharing Innovative Experiences* and the forthcoming *South Report* and *Southern Development Solutions*, over the Internet. The process by which some of these products are generated will continue to involve collaboration among partners to identify Southern initiatives that offer solutions to Southern problems. Following the methodology evolved by the Special Unit, representatives of selected initiatives are invited to document their experiences in individual case studies and to present them at an international forum for extensive sharing of information with other practitioners.

47. Knowledge-sharing activities will also include online discussions relating to SSC among UNDP staff in country offices around the world and other members of the international development community. In addition, the Special Unit will use information and communication technologies in order to document and share more systematically the policies and practices that have contributed to rapid socio-economic growth in a number of developing countries, such as Botswana, China, Costa Rica, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

48. For the activities undertaken under the above-mentioned platforms to help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation strategy for SSC recognizes that solutions to the needs of the least developed countries and other countries in special development circumstances can be found in the experiences of those countries that have achieved significant economic growth and that have themselves become proactive contributors to SSC. There are an increasing number of middle-income developing countries characterized by their world-class technologies and rapidly growing economies. These countries are in a position to extend their experience and resources to the less advantaged countries of the South that are at risk of not meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Special Unit proposes to harness this opportunity by undertaking activities with a multiple focus. These activities should result in a critical mass of replicable models that can be shared and duplicated or adapted throughout the South.

49. The expansion of links between all developing countries, especially countries in special development circumstances, and pivotal countries and the strengthening of triangular arrangements with both Governments and non-governmental donors will continue to be the twin pillars of the implementation strategy of the Special Unit.

50. The Special Unit will strengthen collaboration within UNDP at both Headquarters and at the country and regional levels. To ensure that SSC is mainstreamed, some staff members from the Special Unit have been outposted and will provide the regional centres with the technical support needed in shaping South-South components of regional and country programmes.

V. Recommendations

51. Based on the foregoing overview and analysis, it is recommended that:

(a) Resource mobilization efforts by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation be intensified and innovative mechanisms be established to attract more resources — both financial and in kind -- from other sources;

(b) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation intensify support for national efforts to strengthen South-South policy implementation, especially by working with national South-South focal points to harness their strategic location within their respective Governments and through continued training of national staff and other measures to ensure more effective support for the South-South process;

(c) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation work more closely with organizations of the United Nations development system and UNDP country offices to develop concrete measures to further integrate South-South cooperation into their regular programmes. This will include training and sensitization programmes throughout the United Nations system;

(d) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation promote the use of information and communication technology, giving special emphasis to least developed countries and African countries, and encourage the United Nations development system to make its relevant databases more accessible through WIDE;

(e) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation give priority to the documentation and dissemination of information on specific problems and needs facing least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(f) WIDE continue to assist in providing a platform for the international development community to address special concerns of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(g) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation design and support the implementation of innovative South-South projects that will serve as models for future replication in South-South development programmes.